



Lehmy

Lanchester Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1955

S. LUDKIN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Lanchester Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1955

S. LUDKIN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

INDEX OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
I Environmental Circumstances and General Statistics ...	4
II Health Services in the Area 	8
III Sanitary Circumstances of the Area 	16
IV Inspection and Supervision of Food 	23
V Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases	25

Appendices :—

A Trend of Vital Statistics since 1938 	31
B Analysis of Notified and Confirmed Cases of Notifiable Diseases under age groups for 1955 	32
C Statistics relating to Factory Inspection 	33
D Statistics in relation to Prevention of Damage by Pests Act ...	34
E Details of Sewage Disposal Works in the Rural Area	35
F Details of Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part 	36

Health Department,
 Council Offices,
 Lanchester,
 Durham.

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
 LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of your area for the year 1955.

In many respects it has been a very satisfactory year, with an increase in the birthrate and a decrease in the infant mortality and over-all death rate. There were no confirmed cases of Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis and there was a general reduction in all notifiable diseases, except dysentery. Again this year, although smaller numbers were involved, an epidemic of measles swept throughout the district, but on this occasion caused one death. The most satisfying item which I wish to report is that for the first time since annual records of this district were kept, there were no deaths from tuberculosis.

Special attention was given to the assessment of numbers of sub-standard properties and to the maintenance of a high standard of food hygiene in shops, restaurants and manufacturing premises. Towards the end of the year the depletion of our water supply caused some anxiety, but there were no adverse effects on the health of the community.

There has been during the year a continued liaison both with the Medical Practitioners and the Hospital Authorities and I wish to record my appreciation of their ready co-operation.

Finally, I wish to thank the members of the Council for their encouragement and support and the staff for their co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

STANLEY LUDKIN,

Medical Officer of Health,

ENVIRONMENTAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND GENERAL STATISTICS IN THE LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT

Area (Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44,243
Population (Estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,020
(1) Estimated number of children :—									
Under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,142
5-15 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,993
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,404
(1) Number of Aged Miners' Homes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
(2) Number of Council and North Eastern Association Aged Persons' Homes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	121
(3) Number of Council and North Eastern Association Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,613
(4) Number of Houses and Shops combined	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
(5) Number of Lock-Up Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
(6) Number of occupied houses for which formal undertakings have been received during the year for closure or demolition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
(7) Estimated Number of Sub-standard houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	191
Rateable Value :—									
(1) Actual Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£78,130 0s. 0d.
(2) Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£284 10s. 2.32d.

The Lanchester Rural District, as it is at present constituted, came into being on 1st April, 1937, and consists of nine parishes—Cornsay, Esh, Greencroft, Healeyfield, Hedleyhope, Lanchester, Langley, Muggleswick and Satley.

Number of Employed Persons

excluding those resident in Castleside, Hamsteels and Esh Colliery.

	Male	Female	Total
Agriculture	116	8	124
Coal Mining	1,503	15	1,518
Coke and Bye-products	169	2	171
Building	250	3	253
Distributive Trade	68	94	162
Cosmetics, Plastics, etc.	68	385	453
Professional Services	94	277	371
	<u>2,268</u>	<u>784</u>	<u>3,052</u>

Unemployed and Disabled

(a) Employable Persons out of work at 31st December, 1955	...	45
(b) Number of disabled persons included in above figures	...	22
(c) Registered Disabled who were on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1955	...	9
(d) Number of persons who had special rehabilitation during year	...	Nil
(e) Number of Registered Disabled persons who have been trained during 1955	...	Nil
(f) Number of Registered Blind Persons	...	42

Comparative Rates

	England and Wales	Durham County	Lanchester R.D.
No. of live births per 1,000 population	15.0	17.2	16.17
No. of still births per 1,000 population	0.35	0.43	0.67
No. of maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births	0.64	0.50	Nil
No. of infant deaths per 1,000 live births	24.9 *	32.0	28.8
No. of deaths per 1,000 population ...	11.7	11.2	10.98
No. of Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 population	0.14	0.20	Nil
No. of Pulmonary Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 population	0.13	0.18	Nil
No. of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 population ...	0.01	0.02	Nil

The standardised birth and death rates for the area, i.e., rates calculated in such a way that allowances are made for the age and sex composition of the population were 16.65 and 11.52 respectively. When comparing the above rates it must be realised that in a population of 15,000 (approximately) the rates frequently fluctuate from year to year, one or two additional deaths producing what would appear at first sight to be a significant change.

* Related Live Births.

DETAILED VITAL STATISTICS

Births

				Males	Females	Total
(a) Live Births—						
Legitimate...	...	...	...	111	125	236
Illegitimate	...	...	...	3	4	7
			Totals	114	129	243
(b) Still Births—						
Legitimate...	...	...	...	5	5	10
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
			Totals	5	5	10

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
No. of Still Births per 1,000 population ...	0.71	0.32	0.26	0.45	0.32	0.39	0.46	0.67
No. of Live and Still Births per 1,000 population	19.2	19.5	16.2	16.0	16.42	16.63	15.03	16.84
No. of Still Births per 1,000 Live and Still Births	37.2	16.9	16.3	28.4	20.0	23.6	31.8	39.52

During the year there were ten still-births as compared with seven last year.

Deaths

	Males	Females	Totals
Deaths during the year	93	72	165
Deaths from Puerperal causes	Nil	Nil	Nil

(a) Infant Deaths

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the year was 28.8 (seven deaths) as compared with 36.36 (eight deaths) for the previous year—four of the seven deaths occurred in the first week of life.

The difference between still births and deaths occurring in the first few weeks of life is often very slight and as the causes are frequently the same, the 10 recorded in the first category and the four in the second should therefore be grouped together when considering the problem of prevention. For a long time this group has been the hard core of wasted infant life, and one cannot stress too strongly the importance of adequate advice and the adequate medical attention and care of expectant mothers, together with the education of the nursing mother in the principles of child care, nutrition and the prevention of infections.

During the year there were the following deaths under one year of age :—

	Males	Females	Totals	Rate per 1,000 live Births
Legitimate... ..	2	5	7	28.8
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	5	7	28.8

For detailed statistics and trends see Appendix A.

(b) Deaths (General)	Males	Females	Totals
ALL CAUSES	93	72	165
1. Cardio Vascular :—			
(a) Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	16	32
(b) Coronary disease	19	8	27
(c) Hypertension with heart disease	1	4	5
(d) Other heart diseases	11	11	22
(e) Other circulatory diseases	5	1	6
Totals	52	40	92
2. Cancer :—			
(a) Stomach	3	2	5
(b) Lung, Bronchus	5	—	5
(c) Breast	—	1	1
(d) Uterus	—	1	1
(e) Other Sites, including Lymphatic Neoplasms	7	9	16
Totals	15	13	28
3. Chest Diseases :—			
(a) Pneumonia	3	3	6
(b) Bronchitis	5	3	8
(c) Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
Totals	8	6	14

		Males	Females	Totals
4.	Tuberculosis (all forms)	—	—	—
5.	Measles	1	—	1
6.	Gastro-Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	1	1
7.	Diabetes	1	—	1
8.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
9.	Congenital Malformations ...	—	1	1
10.	Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	10	9	19
11.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3
12.	All other Accidents	2	—	2
13.	Leukaemia Aleukaemia	1	1	2

The main causes of death during the year were diseases of the heart and circulatory system, Cancer, Bronchitis, and Pneumonia in that order. One can feel very happy that so many diseases which killed or maimed people 20 or 30 years ago have almost disappeared and that our chance of living to a ripe old age is far better than it used to be, but there are one or two diseases which are causing some anxiety, e.g., again this year there has been a large number of deaths from Coronary Thrombosis and again the brunt of this disease has fallen on males. The factors influencing its occurrence are under active investigation and while a number of reasons for the recent increase have been put forward, the stage has not yet been reached when one can be certain of the prejudicial influences and so adopt appropriate preventive measures. In the case of Cancer of the Lung, there were five deaths this year as compared with three last year. In England and Wales in 1944 there were 5,331 deaths of men and 1,237 deaths of women attributed to this disease as compared with 14,820 deaths of men and 2,451 deaths of women in 1955. Thus we have something like 17,000 Britons who died in 1955 of this horrible disease for which modern surgery can do very little because of the frequent unavoidable delay in diagnosis, but which recent investigations suggest is preventable. No other form of Cancer has shown a similar increase over the years and from accumulating evidence there would seem to be no doubt that if the population at large refrained from smoking cigarettes the mortality from lung Cancer would drop. According to statisticians one out of every 11 male heavy smokers aged 25 will ultimately die of Cancer of the Lung. Unfortunately the habit is so firmly ingrained and as there is no apparent urgency, the risk of producing the disease later in life is ignored or accepted philosophically. Sweden has set an example by prohibiting the advertising of cigarettes, cigars and tobacco but it will take a long time to convince the population in this country of the danger of the habit and it may well be that parents and teachers will play the most important part in ultimately ridding us of this disease.

There were five fatal accidents of which three occurred on the roads.

II. HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. Staff of Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health and County Area Medical Officer for Consett and Stanley Urban and Lanchester Rural District :

S. LUDKIN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors :

G. ROWE, Cert.S.I.B., and Meat Inspectors' Certificate. (Senior Sanitary Inspector).

F. E. TERRY, Cert.S.I.B., and Meat Inspectors' Certificate.

Clerical Staff :

H. CLOSE (terminated employment—3.11.55).

K. W. THOMPSON (commenced employment—7.12.55).

2. Laboratory Facilities

These continue to be provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle, under the direction of Dr. R. Norton.

All specimens for animal inoculation are sent to the laboratory attached to the General Hospital, Newcastle.

Routine annual specimens were taken from three known Typhoid and one known Paratyphoid carrier.

The number of specimens sent for examination during the past six years is as follows :—

Year						Specimens Submitted	Positive
1950	...	...	...	...	...	67	26
1951	...	...	...	...	...	61	23
1952	...	...	...	...	...	61	12
1953	...	...	...	...	...	204	80
1954	...	...	...	...	...	402	68
1955	...	...	...	...	...	317	115

Most of the specimens taken at Lee Hill and Maiden Law Hospitals are dealt with at the Hospital Laboratory, Shotley Bridge, and are not included in the above figures.

The following table gives particulars of specimens sent in by the Health Department and the Medical Practitioners in the area for examination during the year :—

	No. of Specimens Submitted	Positive
Blood (Serological Examinations)		
(a) Enteric Fever	—	—
(b) Other Organisms	—	—
Faeces		
(a) Enteric Fever	223	3
(b) Dysentery		85
(c) Food Poisoning		7
(d) Other Organisms		1
Urine		
(a) Enteric Fever	—	—
(b) Other Organisms	—	—
Swabs (Ear, Nasal and Throat)		
(a) Diphtheria	—	—
(b) Haemolytic Streptococci	13	7
(c) Other Organisms	1	1
Sputum for Tuberculosis		
(a) Chest Clinics	57	9
(b) Other Medical Services	9	—
Miscellaneous	14	2
Totals	317	115

3. Local Health Authority Services

In accordance with a scheme adopted by the County Council on 25th February, 1948, and approved by the Minister, the Administrative County is divided into twelve areas, Lanchester Rural and Consett and Stanley Urban Districts comprising No. 3 Area. For each area, a Health Sub-Committee has been appointed to exercise on behalf of the County Health Committee certain limited functions relating to the services provided under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

This Sub-Committee is composed of three members from the County Council appointed by the County Health Committee, not being members of the County Council or District Council and fifteen members of the three District Councils in the Area (four of which are nominated by the Lanchester Council).

All day-to-day administration of these County Services is however, still carried out at the County Headquarters, Area Medical Officers merely deputising for the County Medical Officer of Health at the quarterly meetings of the Area Sub-Committees. During the year, representatives of the three Local Authorities met a Sub-Committee of the County Health Committee and pressed for de-centralisation of some of the personal health services with added responsibility for Area Medical Officers.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff for the statistics relating to the personal health services.

(a) Clinics

In order to reduce the number of maternal and neo-natal deaths there is, at the moment, considerable discussion about the ideal service which should be provided to expectant and nursing mothers. That adequate

ante and post-natal services are necessary is agreed by all, but there is some feeling that there might be better co-ordination or re-distribution of the services provided by hospitals, general practitioners and local health authority clinics. One must always keep in mind that the Local Authority Clinic can be of considerable service as a supplement to the general practitioner service by providing medical advice if this should be necessary and teaching in mothercraft and general health education as a routine.

When well run, expectant mothers usually enjoy attending clinics. They become members of a group sharing and discussing the common experience and in the case of the first pregnancy, are thus able to view the whole event in true perspective.

Infant Welfare Clinics also with their dual medical and educational functions can play a very valuable part in relating in the mind of the mother, the necessary place of prevention in the scheme of medical services and in ensuring the growth of healthy children.

(i) *Birth Control*

Clinics for the above are held in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Wetherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett, on alternate Friday mornings

(ii) *Ante-Natal*

Clinics are held as follows :—

WESLEYAN METHODIST SCHOOLROOM, LANGLEY PARK—alternate Thursday afternoons.

PARISH HALL, LANCHESTER—alternate Monday mornings.

NEW MINERS' HALL, BURNHOPE—alternate Tuesday mornings.

THE CLINIC, 10, WOOD VIEW, ESH WINNING—alternate Wednesdays.

(iii) *Maternity and Child Welfare*

Clinics are held as follows :—

WESLEYAN METHODIST SCHOOLROOM, LANGLEY PARK—alternate Thursday mornings.

PARISH HALL, LANCHESTER—alternate Monday afternoons.

NEW MINERS' HALL, BURNHOPE—alternate Tuesday mornings.

THE CLINIC, 10, WOOD VIEW, ESH WINNING—alternate Wednesdays.

(iv) *Immunisation*

Immunisation has been carried out at :—

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics throughout the area ;

(b) By General Medical Practitioners by personal arrangement with parents, and ;

(c) In all schools in the area.

(b) *Nursing in the Home and Midwifery Services*

Since the 1st April, 1954, the administration of the nursing service was integrated with that of the Midwifery Service when the employees of the Council Nursing Association was transferred to the County Council employ. During this year the Superintendent of the Nursing Service was also appointed supervisor of the Midwives.

All nursing requisites are now held by the central store at Durham and are sent out to the various patients when requests are received.

The following is a summary of the work carried out in this Area :—

	No. of Visits
Midwifery and Maternity	134
Medical	4,759
Surgical	2,252
Tuberculosis	223

There are two County Midwives and two District Nurse-Midwives who both live and operate in the District while three District Nurse-Midwives operate, but are not resident in the area of the Lanchester R.D.C.

(c) Ambulance Service

The Rural District continued to be served by the County Ambulance Depot situated at Maiden Law Hospital, Lanchester, supplemented by ambulances from other depots, where necessary. The depot has an establishment of 11 driver-attendants and five ambulances performing the major part of the long distance journeys in the County area. The following table gives details of the work undertaken during the year 1955.

	Journeys Under- taken	Cases carried			Mileage
		Stretcher	Sitting	Total	
Local	2,017	1,311	4,373	5,684	68,930
Long distance	258			444	58,544
	2,275	1,311	4,373	6,128	127,474

At present the district comes within the area served by the Durham ambulances control which has a staff of four clerk-telephonists who maintain a 24-hour service, but pending the re-organisation of the Service, the Lanchester Depot is at present responsible to the Consett Control which also operates a 24-hour service. The first stage of the re-organisation was commenced when this depot ceased to operate with effect from the 31st December, 1955. Work previously undertaken by them being allocated to the various neighbouring depots.

(d) Prevention of Illness—Care and Aftercare

There are no voluntary district care committees, the Local Health Authority discharging the functions imposed by Section 28 of the National Health Act of 1946. As with the other County Services, all day-to-day administration is done centrally. Those cases discharged from hospital and requiring further nursing are visited by the Home Nurses if necessary or supervised and advised by the Health Visitor if this should be requested. Nursing requisites can be hired from the Central Depot at Durham.

(e) Domestic Help Service

This service has been used even more extensively during the year than previously. Charges are made, the amount depending upon the income of the household. At the beginning of January, 1955, 73 cases in this district were being served by a Home Help.

The service cannot provide a twenty-four hour one for bedridden invalids, nor are Home Helps sick visitors ; they are experienced housewives who can cook, wash and clean and who can only stay in the house just as long as it takes them to get through the necessary work.

Charges are made, the amount depending on the income of the household, but these are extremely generous.

There were 15 new cases during the year and of the total assisted, 81 were aged people, one Tuberculosis case, one Maternity case, the remainder being cases of illness or accident, making a total of 88 Households being provided with the services of a Home Help. It will be noted that the percentage of cases of old people assisted is very high (92%) as compared with 84% in the North West Durham as a whole.

(f) Health Visitor Service

There are two Health Visitors in the Lanchester Rural District, the following domiciliary visits being made during the year :—

Maternity and Child Welfare ...	...	...	3,468
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	270
Mental Deficiency ...	...	...	132
Schools ...	...	...	328
General Health ...	...	...	13
Aged People ...	...	...	14

4. Hospital Services

The Local Hospital Services are administered by the North-West Durham Hospital Management Committee on behalf of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. The Secretary has kindly provided the following information on the Hospitals and Clinics serving this Area.

Maiden Law Hospital

The 108 beds at this hospital are allocated as follows :—

Ear, Nose and Throat ...	...	24
Chest Unit (Tuberculosis) ...	...	84
Total ...	...	<u>108</u>

Lee Hill Hospital

This hospital, with a complement of 307 beds (62 of which are used as Part III accommodation for the County Council) and a Medical Out-patients' Department, deals with the Chronic Sick and includes a section for Orthopaedic Tuberculosis cases.

Bed allocation is as follows :—

Orthopaedic ...	...	28
Mental ...	...	44
Chronic Sick ...	...	173
Part III Accommodation ...	...	62
Total ...	...	<u>307</u>

Shotley Bridge Hospital

Out-patient facilities for all the Specialities exist at this hospital. The 532 beds are allocated as follows :—

Surgical ...	...	...	...	121
Medical ...	...	...	...	98
Gynaecological ...	...	...	...	43
Orthopaedic ...	...	...	...	45
Paediatrics ...	...	...	...	4
Thoracic Surgery	...	...	...	113
Radiotherapy ...	...	...	...	50
Plastic Surgery	...	...	...	58
Total ...				<u>532</u>

(A large number of General Medical, Surgical and Gynaecological cases from the Langley Park area also drain to Dryburn Hospital).

Richard Murray Hospital

There are 32 Obstetric beds at this hospital.

Chest Clinic

Clinics for the above speciality are held in the Chest Clinic, South Moor Hospital (for residents of the Burnhope area), the Chest Clinic, Ropery Lane, Chester-le-Street (for residents of the Langley Park and Esh Winning areas), and the Chest Clinic, Villa Real, Consett (for residents of the Lanchester and Castleside areas).

At the new Chest Clinic at Villa Real, Consett, the following sessions operate :—

Tuesday mornings	—9.15 a.m. each week	—Contacts of known cases of Tuberculosis.
Wednesday mornings	—9.15 a.m. each week	—Males.
Wednesday aftern'ns	—1.00 p.m. each week	—Artificial Pneumothorax and Pneumoperitoneum refills.
Friday mornings	—9.15 a.m. each week	—Females.
Friday afternoons	—2.00 p.m. each week	—Children—up to 16 years of age.

Venereal Diseases

Treatment and diagnostic facilities are provided by Clinics outside the Rural Area as follows :—

Newcastle General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Males and Females :—

Monday to Friday : 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon. 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 Saturday : 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Sunday (Emergency only) : 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Durham County Hospital.

Females : Monday and Thursday 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.
 Males : Monday and Thursday, 4.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

5. Executive Committee, Durham

This Committee controls the services under Part IV of the National Health Service Act, 1946. There are ten General Medical Practitioners, two Opticians and two Dispensing Chemists operating in the area.

6. Aged People and their Homes

Admissions to Local Health Authority Hostels are arranged directly with the Welfare Department at Durham or occasionally after reference to the District Health Department. During the year under review, one case was admitted to the Stanhope Hostel and one to the Jarrow Hostel. Work is nearing completion on the building to be used for old people in the Stanley district, while a similar building is proposed for the Consett Urban District. These should, once completed obviate the necessity of local old people having to be transferred to hostels outside the district and away from their relatives and friends.

In January it was necessary to obtain a magistrate's order to ensure the removal to and detention in a hospital of a 73-year-old lady who was suffering from chronic illness and infirmity, was living in insanitary conditions and did not have anyone able or willing to care for her. On the expiry of this initial Order, an extension was obtained for a further three months, but by this time she had settled in completely and remained voluntarily.

7. Health Education

In September, the Council agreed to purchase monthly enough copies of the journal "Better Health" to supply each school in the area and all members of the Council.

"Better Health" is the official journal of the Central Council for Health Education, and this magazine has proved a very popular and attractive means of promoting health education in the district. Over the year, the contents of these booklets cover the whole field of health with particular reference to child health and nutrition, family matters, services provided by the local health authorities, epidemiology, environmental and food hygiene, smoke abatement and home accidents.

8. Prevention of Damage by Pests

During the year, 426 inspections were made to private dwellings, business premises, Local Authority's properties and agricultural premises (See Appendix D.).

The maintenance treatments of sewers and sewage disposal works were completed at two six-monthly intervals as required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. During the first treatment in March, 221 manholes were pre-baited and poisoned and 57 were found to be infested. In the September treatment, 171 manholes were treated and 37 were found to be infested.

Close relations have been maintained with the representatives of the Northern Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and valuable information has been obtained from circulars during the year.

9. Disinfestation

During the year 260 houses were inspected prior to the tenants taking over the tenancies of Council Houses. Four were found to be infested with bed bugs and were disinfested.

10. Refuse Removal and Disposal

A weekly collection of house refuse is maintained in the area except where concessionary coal allowances are made and in these cases, it is essential to collect twice a week. It is estimated that practically 1,000 houses have this twice weekly collection.

The estimated amount of refuse is 11,616 tons per annum, this weight being reduced annually as old houses with Conservancy type of sanitation are closed for human habitation and schemes of installing modern ranges in existing houses are effected.

There is an increasing difficulty in obtaining suitable relief labour at short notice and this can and sometimes does, upset the regularity of collection.

The annual total cost of collection and disposal of house refuse for the year ending 31st March, 1956, was £8,739 3s. 11d. This gives an annual average cost of £1 19s. 8d. per premise. The average weight of refuse per head of population is 15.47 cwts. per annum.

Ash-Bin Removal Scheme

The scheme whereby new standard Ash-bins are supplied and delivered by the Cleansing Staff on the request of the owner, at cost price plus a small charge for administration, continues to work quite smoothly.

During the year 35 bins have been supplied under the scheme to various owners.

11. Trade Refuse

Trade Refuse was collected during the year from 22 shops and factories in the area.

12. Salvage

The salvage scheme has, during the year, continued to function efficiently. The staff involved in the scheme do the work of baling and sorting in their own time, the material being collected with the house refuse.

The value of salvage materials sold during the year was £831 14s. 1d. of which £454 14s. 11d. was paid to the workmen, leaving a balance, after sundry expenses of £376 19s. 2d. credit to the Council.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water

(a) All houses in the area with the exception of those mentioned in the subsequent table are supplied by the Durham County Water Board mains and all have a supply on tap in the houses ; none being served by a stand pipe.

Parish	No. of		Type of Supply					Method of Distribution				
	Houses	Occu- pants	Public	Private	Reser- voir	Spring	Well	Carried	Gravi- tation Piped	Pum- ped	House Service	
											Inside	Out
Cornsay ...	5	17	—	5	—	3	2	3	2	—	2	3
Esh ...	2	8	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	2	2	—
Greencroft ...	1	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
Healeyfield ...	23	80	—	16	—	14	2	5	17	2	16	7
Lanchester ...	67	234	2	34	—	32	4	22	28	17	39	28
Langley ...	3	10	—	2	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	3
Muggleswick...	56	191	—	33	1	31	1	9	4	3	47	9
Satley ...	32	120	1	16	—	14	2	13	114	8	16	16
Totals ...	189	663	3	109	1	97	13	55	103	32	122	67

(b) Durham County Water Board provides a public water supply from a catchment area around Waskerley. Reservoirs are situated at Smiddy Shaw, Waskerley Park and Hisehope, while filtration and chlorination of this upland surface is done at Honeyhill, Waskerley.

During the year there was a steady residual of approximately 1 p.p.m. of chlorine while all the samples submitted for more detailed bacteriological examination proved to be satisfactory, a standard which must have been very difficult to maintain in view of the tremendous problems which faced the staff of the Board during the beginning and the latter part of the year, in the first place because of extreme frost, with a resulting unusually large number of bursts, and in the second place due to insufficient rainfall during the summer months. Special emergency measures for the conservation of the grossly depleted water supplies in the reservoirs had to be instituted and it became necessary on the 12th December to cut off the normal pipe supplies to the shops, houses, etc., and to turn on specially installed street taps for domestic water supplies in the area. As a preliminary, to ensure that other supplies to which the public might turn in desperation were safe for use, we took samples and submitted them to the laboratory for bacteriological examination. Where these latter samples were found to be unsatisfactory, with the Council's approval, warning notices were erected at these sites drawing the public's attention to the unsuitability of the supply for drinking purposes. The operation of the emergency measures were made even more difficult by the severe weather at the time, which caused freezing of the street pipes and taps. Fortunately, the increasing falls of rain made it possible to remove restrictions before the end of the year. The future task of providing adequate water supplies both for domestic purposes and for the rapidly expanding industries, is becoming more acute year by year and is receiving the urgent and constant attention of the Water Board.

In February this year, in conjunction with the Sunderland and South Shields Water Co., they decided to take steps to bring about the construction of a large, new impounding reservoir in the valley of the River

Derwent, near Derwent Bridge. This reservoir is expected to supply about 20 million gallons per day to authorities, the Board taking a half share of this yield. Once this is completed, there will be a substantial surplus of water for many years to come, although it will not remove the immediate difficulties, for the project will take seven or eight years to complete. As an immediate measure, a large filtration and softening plant is also being constructed at Mainsforth Colliery for the treatment of mine water.

Failure of the main supplies to Esh Colliery was found to be due to a faulty main which required renewal and during this period, tankers were put into service.

(c) The following lengths of pipes were laid in the area by the Durham County Water Board during the year :—

1732 yards of 3" diameter pipes.
112 yards of 4" diameter pipes.

(e) Tow Law—Rowley Mains

This scheme is designed to connect these two places by means of a water main to provide properties on the western side of the district with a tap supply instead of the supply from the shallow wells upon which they now rely. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has indicated that they would be prepared to make a grant of £12,000 towards the estimated cost of £30,000, while the Durham County Council has agreed to meet 50% of the loss which may be incurred in the scheme. While this project has been under discussion for some considerable time only limited progress is being made, but it is hoped that it will be finalised in the near future.

WATER SAMPLING

Springs	Parish	No. of Samples	Grade			
			1	2	3	4
„	Healeyfield ...	3	2	—	—	1
„	Esh ...	2	—	1	1	—
„	Lanchester ...	5	3	—	2	—
„	Muggleswick ...	16	10	—	1	5
„	Satley ...	1	—	—	1	—
„	Hedleyhope ...	1	1	—	—	—
	Totals ...	28	16	1	5	6

2. Drainage and Sewage

No major sewer extensions were carried out during the year apart from those associated with the building of Council estates. Discussions with the Brandon and Byshottles U.D.C. continued throughout the year and it is hoped that the Ministry approved scheme will be commenced in the near future which will modernise the Joint Works at Esh Winning and also provide a sewer communication between Ushaw Moor College and the Works.

3. Atmospheric Pollution

The most important event for some time in this field was the presentation to the Minister of the "Beaver Report." At the time of writing this report the act giving effect to certain recommendations in this report has received Royal assent.

4. Sanitary Conveniences

Two privy conversions were carried out during the year. 152 new houses provided a similar number of additional W.C's, while the clearance of 122 sub-standard properties reduced the total of conservancy closets.

The revised figures for sanitary accommodation at 31st December, 1955, are as follows :—

Water Closets	...	...	...	...	4,432
Ash Closets	...	...	...	...	90
Privy Ashpits	...	...	...	...	134

5. Housing

(a) New Properties

Private Enterprise :

Eight houses were erected privately during the year as follows :—

Castleside	...	...	...	...	4
Lanchester	...	...	...	...	4

Local Authority :

During the year the following Council houses were erected :—

Burnhope	...	...	...	...	20
Langley Park	...	...	...	...	40
Hamsteels	...	...	...	...	* 40
Lanchester	...	...	...	...	8
Castleside	...	...	...	...	* 36
Total					144

*By contract.

(b) Repairs and Reconditioning

By making use of Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949 (as amended), 41 grant assisted schemes were completed on house property during the year. These were as follows :—

- Fines House Cottage, Lanchester.
- 42, Quebec Street, Langley Park.
- 43, Quebec Street, Langley Park.
- 3, Browns Terrace, Langley Park.
- 6, West View, Lanchester.
- 3, Prospect Terrace, Lanchester.
- 4, Prospect Terrace, Lanchester.
- 5, Prospect Terrace, Lanchester.
- 6, Prospect Terrace, Lanchester.
- 28, Maudville, Castleside.
- 1, Esh Laude, Esh.
- Oyster Shell Cottage, Lanchester.
- 1, Palm Street, Langley Park.
- 14, Ash Street, Langley Park.
- 12, Kitswell Road, Lanchester.
- 13, Victoria Terrace, Lanchester.

- 3, Kitswell Road, Lanchester.
- 9, Elm Street, Langley Park.
- 11, Ash Street, Langley Park.
- 26, Elm Street, Langley Park.
- 20, Clifford Street, Langley Park.
- 2, The Garths, Lanchester.
- Dalham House, Ford Lane, Lanchester.
- 13, Pine Street, Langley Park.
- 3, Bridge Street, Langley Park.
- 54, Commercial Street, Cornsay Colliery.
- 20-23, George Street, Langley Park.
- 25-29, Logan Street, Langley Park.
- 32-34, Logan Street, Langley Park.
- 6, Hawthorn Terrace, Langley Park.
- Stockerley Cottage, Lanchester.
- 1, The Grove, Satley.

Since the inception of the scheme, 91 applications have been received, two rejected, three withdrawn and 67 completed, the remaining number being at various stages of completion.

Owners of property have shown an increasing interest in the scheme for improvement grants and it is anticipated that in future years, even greater use will be made of these provisions thus enabling worth-while properties in the area to be brought up to modern standards.

The following properties were modernised, without grant, by the provision of modern ranges, bathrooms, hot and cold water services, sinks, etc. :

Marsfield View, Lanchester	...	...	1
Middlewood Farm, Lanchester	...	...	1
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	2
			<hr/>

(c) Demolitions and Closures

During the year a complete survey was made of all unfit property and it was estimated that there is approximately 300 houses which should be dealt with by either demolition or closing procedures. Of this total, 52 houses were found to be vacant, 17 of the back-to-back type, while in the case of 55, owners had agreed that they be demolished or closed once vacated. The number of new houses required for replacement purposes is therefore in the region of 176, but it is stressed that this figure may have to be varied should owners decide to spend unreasonable amounts of money to make them fit, or if certain properties deteriorate more rapidly than is anticipated.

These 176 houses are distributed as follows :—

Burnhope and Peartree	...	...	84
Lanchester, Greencroft, Malton			
Colliery, Knitsley and Butsfield	...	...	47
Satley	...	...	4
Castleside, Rowley and Waskerley	...	...	27
Langley Park, Esh Village and Hill Top			46
Quebec, Cornsay Colliery, Cornsay			
Village and Hamsteels	...	...	23
			<hr/>
			231
			<hr/>
Less houses by natural wastage	...	...	55
			<hr/>
			176
			<hr/>

To this figure can be added 15 houses voluntarily surrendered by the owners. Agreement has been arranged to the following :—

(d) **Demolition Orders**

1, Langley Mill Cottages, Lanchester ...	...	1
1-3, Wallnook Cottages, Langley Park...	...	3
1-10, South Street, Langley Park	...	10
1-10, North Street, Langley Park	...	10
27 and 27A, Hill Top, Esh	...	2
1-5, Low Row, Malton Colliery	...	5
1-10, High Row, Malton Colliery	...	10
11-20, High Row, Malton Colliery	...	10
1 and 2, Standagain Farm Bungs, Burnhope		2
1-20, Church Row, Burnhope	...	20
1-20, Fell Row, Burnhope	...	20
Nursingfield Cottage, Peartree	...	1
1-5, Marleys Houses, Quebec	...	5
1 and 2, Forsters Houses, Cornsay Village	...	2
		<hr/> 101 <hr/>

(e) **Closing Orders**

1 and 2, Langley Street, Langley Park	...	2
1-8, Office Row, Burnhope	...	8
11-14, Cross Row, Burnhope	...	4
1-31, West Stone Row, Burnhope	...	31
1-8, 13 and 14, The Avenue, Burnhope	...	10
1, 2, 5 and 6, Spite-of-all, Burnhope	...	4
2, Hurbuck Farm Cottages, Knitsley	...	1
Davidstown Cottage, Knitsley	...	1
9, South Terrace, Cornsay Colliery	...	1
Co-op Houses, Front Street, Esh	...	2
		<hr/> 64 <hr/>

(f) **Formal Undertakings**

1-4, Square House Cottages, Lanchester	...	4
1 and 2, Greencroft Towers, Maiden Law	...	2
24, 25 and 26, Front Street, Langley Park	...	3
1 and 2, Knox's Buildings, Cornsay Colliery	...	2
1 and 2, West View, Castleside	...	2
		<hr/> 13 <hr/>

(g) **Back-to-Back Houses**

Originally there were 73 such properties in the area which total is now reduced by 47 conversions to 26. Seven conversions were carried out during the year leaving the 26 properties to be dealt with but of these 17 are now vacant awaiting the opportunity to convert them into self-contained houses.

The remaining properties are located as follows :—

		Original	Converted	Remaining	Occ.	Vacant
Langley Park	...	44	30	14	4	10
Cornsay Colliery	...	10	2	8	1	7
Hamsteels	...	6	2	4	4	—
Esh Village	...	13	13	—	—	—
		<hr/> 73 <hr/>	<hr/> 47 <hr/>	<hr/> 26 <hr/>	<hr/> 9 <hr/>	<hr/> 17 <hr/>

(h) **Medical Priority**

The Council's very sound practice of allocating a number of new houses and casual lettings to medical cases has continued and in view of our concern to reduce the incidence of Tuberculosis in the Area, all of these were granted to overcrowded families or families living in insanitary circumstances who had in addition one or more members suffering from Tuberculosis.

(i) **Overcrowding**

The known cases on the register at the end of the year numbered 31 (5 in local authority houses) involving 44 families and 284 persons. 18 of the cases were due to natural increase in the size of families, 13 were due to the house being occupied by more than one family, generally caused by the marriage of a member of the family unit and three cases were due to accommodating a relative.

The continuation of the Council's policy of moving small families from large into smaller houses as opportunities arise is to a very great extent reducing overcrowding and at the same time ensures that Council property is being used to the best advantage.

6. Factories

During the year 45 inspections were carried out in the various factories in the area (See Appendix C.).

The following is a list of factories in the area at 31st December, 1955.

Trade					With Power	Without Power	Total
Alloy Reclamation	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Agricultural Contractor	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Bakeries	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Benzol Recovery	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Brick and Pipe Works	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Builders' Yards	...	...	...	...	1	6	7
Clothing Manufacture	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Cosmetics	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Ice-Cream Manufacture	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Joiners	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
Motor Repairers	...	...	...	...	6	5	11
Paint Mixing	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
Printing	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Sausage Makers	...	...	...	...	11	—	11
Sawmills	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Tailoring	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Glove Making	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Locomotive Repairs	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Laundries	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Marine Store Dealers	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Totals					42	23	65

7. Public Health and Housing Acts.

The following is a summary of inspections made and notices served under the Public Health and Housing Acts :—

	No. of Inspections	No. of Informal Notices served	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied after Notice
Housing :				
Public Health and Housing Acts	1,012	1,010	2	829
Overcrowding	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient	5	5	—	5
Defective	102	102	—	98
Drainage	194	194	—	192
Water Supply	97	67	—	57
Food Premises	24	4	—	4
Shops Act	—	—	—	—
Dairies	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses :				
Public	—	—	—	—
Private	416	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	5	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Factories	45	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	10	10	—	10
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	12	12	—	12
Offensive accumulations	62	62	—	62
Smoke Nuisances	6	6	—	6
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act				
1949	21	21	—	21
Verminous Premises	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Sampling	1	—	—	—
I.D. Investigations	96	—	—	—
Totals ...	<u>2,109</u>	<u>1,493</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1,296</u>

IV. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) General

The advent of the Food Hygiene Regulations which are to come into effect next year will make a most useful contribution to the administration of food handling generally. The wider powers and greater wealth of detailed supervision which will be available should, with the co-operation of traders and the public do much to improve the present unsatisfactory standard. In turn it is hoped that there will be ultimately fewer outbreaks of food poisoning.

Another step was taken to eradicate the source of tuberculosis infection in the community by including the district in a "Specified Area" in which all milk sold by retailers must be "specially designated," that is either from tuberculosis free herds or heat-treated in such a way that any Tubercle Bacilli which may be present would be killed. The order came into operation on the 6th December, 1955.

Hygiene in Hospital Catering Establishments

Arrangements have now been made with the Hospital Authorities for regular inspections of all their catering establishments by your Medical Officer together with the Hospital Secretary and one of the Senior Medical Staff.

(b) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The following were on the register at the 31st December, 1955 :—

Dairies (not dairy farms)	...	...	Nil
Distributors	...	...	7

(c) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

The following licences were issued during the year under review :—

Dealers' Licence to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" with regard to raw milk	...	...	...	1
Supplementary Licence (Tuberculin Tested Milk)	...	...	...	1

(d) Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949

The following licences were issued during the year under review :—

Dealers' Licence to use the special designation "Pasteurised"	...	...	5
Dealers' Licence to use the special designation "Sterilised"	...	...	8
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation "Pasteurised"	...	...	1
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation "Sterilised"	...	...	1

(e) Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Inspections were carried out periodically at all the premises used for the manufacture and storage of food.

The following premises were registered under the Act at the 31st December, 1955 :—

Ice Cream Manufacture	2
Ice Cream Storage and Sale	27
Preparation or Manufacture of Sausages, Potted or Pressed Food	14
Preparation of preserved food—Fried fish	10

(f) Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 and 1948

All premises used for the manufacture of ice-cream were inspected during the year and a good standard of hygiene was maintained.

One sample of ice-cream was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, for examination, and placed in grade I.

(g) Meat and Other Foods

Of the six slaughter-houses which were operating at the beginning of the year one (Annfield Plain Co-operative Society) ceased to be used while the reconditioned premises at Quebec were added, re-establishing the original total of six. While six are registered, regular slaughtering has been more or less confined to only three slaughterhouses. Apparently the small trader has found it more economical to purchase on the wholesale market. Complete inspection of all dressed carcasses was carried out although this is quite a difficult problem in view of the scattering of the slaughter-houses throughout the district. Condemned meats are stained in accordance with the Ministry's recommendation and disposal is arranged by a by-product firm on Tyneside who specialise in this type of work.

Food found to be unfit for human consumption during the year :—

Commodity					Tins	lbs.	ozs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	—	55	4
Beans	...	...	...	...	3	—	—
Butter	...	...	...	...	—	33	8
Cheese	...	...	...	...	—	7	—
Cherries	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Chopped Pork	...	...	...	...	3	—	—
Cooked Ham	...	...	...	...	—	63	2
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	—	34	12
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	...	—	83	No
Grapefruit	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	...	15	30	—
Milk	...	...	...	...	4	—	—
Oranges	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Mushrooms	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Peaches	...	...	...	...	4	4	—
Pears	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Peas	...	...	...	...	5	4	3
Pineapples	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Prunes	...	...	...	...	1	1	14
Sausage	...	...	...	...	—	33	8
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	56	24	11
Tongue	...	...	...	...	4	31	10
Veal	...	...	...	...	23	77	8
Vegetable Soup	...	...	...	...	1	—	10

There were 28 Licensed slaughtermen on the Register at the end of the year.

IV. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There was a slight decrease in the number of confirmed cases during the year as compared with 1954 (383 as against 393). For analysis of notified and confirmed cases of notifiable diseases see Appendix B.

Communicable Diseases in Hospitals

Each Consultant has been designated Medical Officer for his own department so far as the control of infection is concerned and the Medical Advisory Committee at Shotley Bridge Hospital acts as The Control of Infection Committee.

During the year, all infectious diseases needing hospitalisation were admitted to Chester-le-Street Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Notifiable Diseases Reported During the Year 1955

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in the Area during the year :—

Disease	Total No. of Cases Notified	Total No. of Cases Confirmed	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Whooping Cough ...	69	69	—	—
Measles	203	203	—	1
Food Poisoning ...	15	15	1	—
Dysentery	74	74	2	—
Pneumonia	13	13	2	6
Erysipelas	2	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever	7	7	—	—
Total ...	383	383	5	7

Scarlet Fever. The number of cases of this disease continued to decrease—only seven notified this year compared with 12 last year and 24 in 1953.

There were, however, two cases of Erysipelas notified, which together with Tonsillitis, Catarrhal Infections and Septic Sores is caused by the same organisms. The disease was mild in type, only two cases being admitted to hospital. There were no fatalities.

Measles. The measles epidemic which first became noticeable in the Langley Park area spread by March throughout the rest of the district, affecting mainly the four to six age group. Unfortunately, one child, aged five years, developed measles encephalitis and died from this disease.

Whooping Cough. Sixty-nine cases were notified during the year—six more than the previous year. One case was admitted to hospital, but fortunately there were no deaths. I feel, however, that this is by no means a true indication of the extent of the disease in the community, there being a large number of mild and undiagnosed cases acting as a reservoir of infection.

While it is believed that a number of vaccines are beneficial in preventing this disease, the results of controlled experiments are awaited before any County Council policy about general immunisation against the disease is to be decided. It is a potentially dangerous disease to which infants are particularly vulnerable and a number of General Practitioners in the area are, in my mind, very wisely immunising selected children.

Diphtheria. There were no cases of Diphtheria during the year. The last case notified in the district occurred in 1949 and the last death from the disease in 1944. This is a record we are very anxious to maintain and to do so we must ensure that all children continue to be adequately immunised and in particular to secure immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday.

The total numbers (all age groups) immunised during the year were as follows :—

Primary Injections	...	...	...	124
Boosters...	...	...	...	46

Diphtheria Notification Rates (per 1,000 population) and number of Deaths from Diphtheria are as follows :—

Year	No. of Confirmed Notifications of Diphtheria	Notification Rate per 1,000	No. of Deaths from Diphtheria
1934	68	1.9	8
1935	48	1.4	10
1936	66	2.5	5
1937	91	5.8	12
1938	60	3.8	4
1939	7	0.45	—
1940	5	0.33	—
1941	12	0.8	—
1942	10	0.7	—
1943	14	0.96	—
1944	11	0.8	1
1945	3	0.2	—
1946	5	0.3	—
1947	1	0.06	—
1948	—	0.00	—
1949	1	0.06	—
1950	None	confirmed	—
1951	do.	do.	—
1952	do.	do.	—
1953	do.	do.	—
1954	do.	do.	—
1955	do.	do.	—

Food Poisoning. Fifteen cases of food poisoning were notified during the year as compared with thirty-five last year. Of these, two were isolated cases, the rest being members of four separate, unrelated families into which infection had been introduced. From only one of these family outbreaks was the responsible organisms isolated.

Dysentery. Seventy-four cases of this disease were notified as compared with seventeen last year. A number of sporadic cases were notified which, on inspection proved indicators of family infection. Large numbers were notified from the Burnhope area at the beginning of the year, but the infection spread to Lanchester Village later. The infection appeared to have spread from child to child at the Burnhope School. They then infected other members of their families, some of whom attended a Lanchester school and were probably instrumental in spreading infection into the village. Every effort was made both by educational and practical methods to limit spreading of the disease and every co-operation was given to us by the Education Authorities.

Influenza. The epidemic of Influenza which occurred in the Tyneside area spread in the north-west of the County during the months of November and December '54 and the beginning of January '55. This increased incidence of infection was reflected in the number of claims for sickness benefit during these months. The disease was due to Virus " B " and affected mainly children and later a number of adults.

Paratyphoid. Towards the end of the year an outbreak of paratyphoid occurred in an adjoining local authority area, there being presumptive evidence that the offending organisms had emanated from the River Browney which was found to be infected as far up its course as the Lanchester Village. As a number of specific types of the paratyphoid organisms were isolated from the swabs placed in the river, investigations were then initiated to trace their origin by placing swabs in the sewage disposal effluent out-flow and then ultimately, the main sewers. At the time of writing this report we had been able to locate two carriers responsible for introducing the organisms into the sewage system and investigations are still continuing to trace others. This has proved to be a most interesting investigation, but a little time consuming. As the River Browney is used frequently by young children at selected bathing spots, notices drawing attention to the dangers of possible infection were placed at these sites and all Head Masters of schools were asked to warn pupils of the danger to health which may result from swimming or bathing in this polluted stream.

Smallpox. No cases of this disease occurred in the area during the year under review but again I wish to draw your attention to the ever present possibility of its importation into the Country and the necessity of being prepared to meet this eventuality.

The value of vaccination in preventing deaths from Smallpox has long been well established, yet the practice of vaccination commenced to decline in 1898, with a further decline as soon as it became entirely optional on the inception of the National Health Service Act.

The lower vaccination acceptance rate, although increasing slightly over the last few years can only be regarded with grave concern since infection introduced into the country may be carried just as easily to Lanchester as to any other part of England.

A pamphlet regarding vaccination is sent from the County Health Department to parents when their children attain the age of three months, and the Health Visiting Staff are provided with details of children vaccinated in order that they can visit those not protected. I would again urge all mothers of infants to make arrangements with their General Practitioner to have this done.

Tuberculosis. It is with great pleasure and satisfaction I now report for the first time in the annual records of the district that there were no deaths from tuberculosis. We cannot, however, allow this good news to induce complacency, for while the institution of surgical measures and the introduction of new drugs has helped to accelerate the falling death-rate for the last few years, remedial methods adopted after the disease has developed will never, on their own, rid us of this incapacitating condition. The importance of preventive measures valuable as they have been in the past, must now be brought into sharper focus.

If we are to ensure that preventive action does indeed keep pace with recent advances in treatment, we must keep foremost in our minds :—

1. That a person has to be infected by the tubercle bacillus before the disease can develop.
2. That sputum, saliva and milk are the vehicles by which the infection is mainly transmitted.
3. That certain age groups are more likely to develop the disease should they be infected.
4. That continuous and frequent exposure to the germs over a period, particularly during a phase of debility, may break down even a strong, natural or acquired resistance.
5. Infectious and undiagnosed cases are frequently the reservoirs of infection.
6. Early diagnosis and treatment are very important.

During the year there were thirteen new cases notified, which merely means that the reservoirs of infection still exist and that there must be a number of infectious cases either not diagnosed or not under control.

After December, all the milk retailed in the area was either heat-treated in such a way that any tubercle bacilli are killed, or comes from herds proved to be free of tuberculous infection. It therefore remains for us to induce every inhabitant to be X-rayed and then if care is also exercised by known tuberculosis cases to prevent spread of infection, newly discovered cases are adequately treated immediately and susceptible children and adults protected by B.C.G. vaccination, most of our troubles in this field should be over.

1. Statistics

				Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
(a)	Number of new cases notified since 1st January, 1955 :—					
	Males ...	...	...	5	2	7
	Females	...	...	6	—	6
			Totals ...	11	2	13
				==	==	==
(b)	Number of deaths Registered :—					
	Males ...	...	...	—	—	—
	Females	...	...	—	—	—
			Totals ...	—	—	—
				==	==	==
(c)	Number of cases on Tuberculosis Register at the 31st December, 1955 :—					
	Males ...	...	...	36	17	53
	Females	...	...	43	20	63
			Totals ...	79	37	116
				==	==	==

It will be noted that there were 13 new cases notified during the year as compared with 12 last year and no deaths recorded as against one in 1954.

Age distribution of new cases and deaths are as follows :—

Age Period	CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
11—15	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
16—20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
21—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26—30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31—35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36—40	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
41—45	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
46—50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
51—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56—60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
61—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
66—70	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
71—75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
76—80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
81 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	6	—	2	—	—	—	—
	<div>11</div>		<div>2</div>		<div>—</div>		<div>—</div>	
Totals :	<div>13</div>				<div>—</div>			

Number and rate per 1,000 population of notifications and deaths over the last 17 years :—

Year	No. of Notifications	Rate per 1,000 pop.	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 pop.
1939	21	1.360	9	0.58
1940	11	0.729	5	0.33
1941	24	1.634	9	0.61
1942	15	1.059	7	0.49
1943	15	1.082	9	0.65
1944	14	1.010	9	0.64
1945	24	1.714	7	0.50
1946	13	0.897	4	0.27
1947	21	1.441	4	0.27
1948	20	1.306	8	0.52
1949	15	0.997	4	0.39
1950	20	1.304	9	0.57
1951	36	2.349	2	0.13
1952	18	1.182	3	0.19
1953	14	0.921	2	0.13
1954	12	0.788	1	0.06
1955	13	0.865	—	—

Tuberculosis Services in the Area

(i) Chest Clinics are situated at Stanley (which drains the Burnhope area), Chester-le-Street (draining Langley Park and Esh Winning areas) and Consett (draining the Lanchester and Castleside areas).

(ii) Those needing sanatorium treatment are, in the main, admitted to the Maiden Law Tuberculosis Unit ; those needing major surgical treatment being transferred to Seaham Hall, Poole Sanatorium or Wolsingham Sanatoria.

(iii) After-care responsibilities rest entirely with the Durham County Council. All day-to-day administration is carried out centrally and nursing requisites, etc., are stored at Durham.

(iv) A number of new Council houses and casual lettings have been given to Tuberculosis cases.

APPENDIX A

Year	Population	Deaths	Death Rate (crude)	Live Births	Birth Rate	Infantile Deaths	Infant Death Rate	Neo-Natal Deaths	Neo-Natal Death Rate	No. of Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified										
										Measles	Scarlet Fever	Wh'ping Cough	Diphtheria	Poliomyelitis	Bowel Complaints			Tuber- culosis		
															Dysent'y	Enteric	Food P.			
1938	15,480	158	10.2	238	15.4	16	67	—	—	—	33	—	60	—	—	—	—	11	8	8
1939	15,440	178	11.4	214	14.2	6	28	—	—	—	5	3	7	—	—	—	—	8	12	12
1940	15,080	176	11.6	226	14.9	13	57	—	—	—	30	5	5	—	1	—	—	7	4	4
1941	14,690	176	11.9	251	17.0	17	66	—	—	—	16	22	12	—	—	—	—	15	9	9
1942	14,170	176	12.4	236	16.6	14	59	—	—	—	37	9	10	—	—	1	—	10	5	5
1943	13,850	174	12.5	262	18.9	16	61	—	—	—	37	6	14	—	—	—	—	10	5	5
1944	13,850	157	11.0	285	20.5	18	63	—	—	—	21	7	11	—	—	—	—	4	10	10
1945	14,000	159	11.3	262	18.7	16	61	—	—	—	6	14	3	—	—	—	—	14	10	10
1946	14,490	158	10.9	159	17.8	11	42	—	—	—	11	25	5	—	—	—	—	10	3	3
1947	14,580	172	11.7	294	20.0	9	30	—	—	—	46	40	1	3	3	2	—	12	9	9
1948	15,310	155	10.1	284	18.5	13	45	6	21.1	184	90	67	—	—	—	1	—	15	5	5
1949	15,340	171	11.1	296	19.2	8	27	7	23.6	244	59	42	1	—	—	—	—	11	4	4
1950	15,310	202	13.1	245	16.0	10	40	5	20.4	222	47	79	—	—	—	—	—	14	6	6
1951	15,300	199	13.0	239	15.6	16	67	11	46.0	288	15	53	—	—	—	—	—	27	9	9
1952	15,220	171	11.23	245	16.09	10	40.81	5	20.4	134	44	75	—	4	2	—	—	14	4	4
1953	15,210	213	13.95	248	16.24	6	24.5	4	16.12	63	24	52	—	1	67	—	15	8	6	6
1954	15,100	185	12.25	220	14.57	8	36.36	7	31.8	244	12	63	1	2	17	—	35	9	3	3
1955	15,020	165	10.98	243	16.17	7	28.8	4	16.4	203	7	69	—	—	74	—	15	11	2	2

APPENDIX B
Analysis of the Notified and Confirmed cases of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups for 1955

Name of Disease	Under one year		1		2		3		4		5		6-10		11-15		16-20		21-35		36-45		46-65		66 and over		Age not known		TOTALS	
	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C
Whooping Cough	1	1	6	6	12	12	15	15	12	12	12	12	12	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	69	69
Measles	7	7	10	10	30	30	26	25	34	34	68	68	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	203	203
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	5	5	2	2	—	—	—	—	15	15
Dysentery	4	4	3	3	7	7	4	4	9	9	22	22	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	2	—	—	74	74
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	3	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	3	—	—	—	—	13	13
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	2
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
TOTALS ...	12	12	19	19	52	52	49	49	60	60	106	106	5	5	7	7	7	7	5	5	13	13	10	10	2	2	—	—	383	383

APPENDIX C

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspection of Factories

Premises	NUMBER OF :		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories	45	—	—

2. Defects Found in Factories

Particulars	Number of Defects			Prose- cuted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts ...	—	—	—	—
Want of Cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accomo'tion :				
(a) Insufficient ...	1	—	—	—
(c) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	1	—	—	—

APPENDIX D

Prevention of Damage by Pests

	Type of Property				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses	(3) All other (including business premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	(5) Agricul- tural
I. No. of properties in Local Authorities District	32	4,404	265	4,701	245
II. No. of properties inspected as a result of :—					
(a) Notification ...	—	260	4	264	—
(b) Survey under the Act	52	10	27	89	27
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other pur- pose	3	372	51	426	15
III. No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :—					
Major ...	9	2	1	12	—
(a) Rats Minor ...	4	24	8	36	5
Major ...	—	—	—	—	2
(b) Mice Minor ...	2	14	2	16	—
IV. No. of infested pro- perties treated by Local Authority ...	13	40	11	64	7
V. No. of Notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
VI. No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
VII. Legal Proceedings ...	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. No. of “ Block ” control schemes car- ried out	—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX E

Location of Sewage Disposal Works	Type of Treatment	Area Drained	System	No. of Properties Draining to Works		Estimated Popul'ion
				Houses	Bldgs.	
Lanchester	Tank and Filter	Lanchester, Maiden Law and approx. half of Burnhope	Part Separate	703 177	15 —	2,267 619
Burnhope	Tank and Filter	Approx. half Burnhope	Part Separate	428	13	1,492
Peartree	Tank and Filter	Peartree	Part Separate	28	—	100
Holmside	Tank and Filter	Holmside	Part Separate	32	1	112
Langley Park	Tank and Filter	Langley Park and Esh Village, part by gravitation part by pumping	Part Separate	1,525	20	5,114
Esh Winning vested in Lanchester R.D.C. & Brandon U.D.C. jointly	Tank and Filter	Part of Cornsray Colliery, new Hamsteels Estate, Hamsteels. Property in Brandon U.D.C. Area	Part Separate	654	23	2,135
Hedleyhill Pit	Tank and Filter	Hedleyhill	Part Separate	11	—	38
East Hedleyhope	Tank and Filter	East Hedleyhope	Part Separate	46	3	162
Hedleyhope Colliery	Tank and Filter	Hedleyhope Colliery	Part Separate	21	—	70
Cornsray Village	Tank and Filter	Cornsray Village	Part Separate	25	—	78
Quebec	Tank Contact Beds Filter	Quebec and Wilkes Hill	Part Separate	92	5	322
Hollinside	Tank and Filter	Hollinside	Part Separate	20	—	75
Malton	Tank and Filter	Malton Colliery	Part Separate	37	2	129
Satley	Tank and Filter	Satley	Part Separate	41	3	143
Castleside	Tank and Filter	Western half of Castleside. Sewage from the remainder of Castleside accepted for treatment by Consett U.D.C.	Part Separate	145	5	508

APPENDIX F

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	306	64	1	493	277	—
Number inspected	306	64	1	493	277	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	2	—	—	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	44	11	—	135	18	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...	15.02	17.18	—	27.38	6.5	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	14	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.57	23.44	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

WM. DRESSER & SONS LTD.
CROWN STREET, DARLINGTON
